Approved For Release 2007/07/05 : CIA-RDP99-00498R000100020056-1

STAT

CIA OPERATIONS CENTER

Date. 24 Nov 76
Item No. 4
Ref. No. 1,2,3

UP-044 (CIA)

NEWS SERVICE

F

DISTRIBUTION II

UPI 11-24 11:22 AES

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- GEORGE BUSH SAID TODAY HE WOULD STEP DOWN AS DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY AS OF JAN. 20.

BUSH, A FORMER REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CHAIRMAN, PLEDGED HIS "CONTINUING FULL ASSISTANCE TO PRESIDENT-ELECT JIMMY CARTER" UNTIL CARTER IS SWORN IN.

BUSH, WHO BRIEFED CARTER IN PLAINS, GA., NOV. 12 ON CIA AND OTHER INTELLIGENCE MATTERS, SAID HE INFORMED BOTH THE PRESIDENT-ELECT AND PRESIDENT FORD THAT HE WOULD BE LEAVING HIS JOB WHEN THE NEW ADMINISTRATION TAKES OVER.

BUSH HAS BEEN CIA DIRECTOR FOR THE PAST YEAR. HE TOOK OVER THE SENSITIVE JOB AFTER PRESIDENT FORD FIRED WILLIAM COLBY AND FORMER DEFENSE SECRETARY JAMES SCHLESINGER. FORD CITED A "GROWING TENSION" IN THE NATIONAL DEFENSE TEAM AND "I FELT VERY STRONGLY THAT I NEEDED TO HAVE A COMFORTABLE FEELING."

SOME OPPOSITION SURFACED WHEN BUSH WENT BEFORE A SENATE PANEL FOR HIS CONFIRMATION HEARING.

SEN. FRANK CHURCH, D-IDAHO, CHAIRMAN OF THE CIA INVESTIGATING PANEL, OBJECTED TO THE APPOINTMENT ON THE GROUNDS THAT BUSH WAS A POLITICIAN.

"GEORGE BUSH HEADING THE AGENCY COULDN'T BE A POORER CHOICE," CHURCH SAID. "WE NEED SOMEONE WHO CAN STAND UP TO THE PRESIDENT. WE NEED A DIRECTOR MORE THAN EVER WHO HAS THAT CAPACITY TO RESTORE THE CONFIDENCE OF THE PEOPLE IN THE CIA. BUSH WON'T DO THAT."

BUT SINCE HIS CONFIRMATION, THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE PUBLIC OPPOSITION TO HIS STEWARDSHIP.

&#x2;&#x2;&#x2;

Approved For Release 2007/07/05 : CIA-RDP99-00498R000100020056-1

PRESIDENT FORD APPOINTED G. BUSH, A FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE, TO SUCCEED CIA DIRECTOR WILLIAM COLBY LAST JANUARY 30.

AT THE TIME, MR. BUSH WAS SERVING AS HEAD OF THE U.S. LIAISON OFFICE IN PEKING.

THE TEXT OF THE CIA ANNOUNCEMENT SAID:

"GEORGE BUSH ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT HE WOULD NOT REMAIN AS DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AFTER JANUARY 20, 1977. IN DOING SO, HE PLEDGED HIS CONTINUING FULL ASSISTANCE TO PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD. MR BUSH INFORMED PRESIDENT FORD AND PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER OF HIS DECISION."

MR. BUSH BRIEFED MR. CARTER FOR SIX HOURS LAST FRIDAY ON INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS AND PROCEDURES DURING A MEETING AT MR. CARTER'S HOME IN PLAINS, GEORGIA.

A CIA SPOKESMAN SAID HE COULD NOT SAY WHETHER MR. CARTER HAD ASKED MR. BUSH TO STAY ON. THE POSITION IS A POLITICALLY APPOINTED ONE, AND WHO SUCCEEDS MR. BUSH WILL BE THE FIFTH DIRECTOR IN FIVE YEARS.

Na

THE SPOKESMAN SAID HE EXPECTED MR. BUSH TO DISCLOSE HIS FUTURE PLANS NEXT WEEK.

MR. BUSH, 52, TOOK OVER THE CIA AT ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT TIMES IN ITS HISTORY -- AS IT WAS UNDER INVESTIGATION BY CONGRESS FOR ILLEGAL SPYING ON AMERICAN CITIZENS AT HOME AND PLOTTING ASSASSINATIONS OF FOREIGN LEADERS ABROAD.

MUCH OF THE FURORE HAS DIED DOWN OVER THE PAST YEAR, AND THE CIA HAS LOST A GOOD DEAL OF THE CLOAK-AND-DAGGER IMAGE IT ONCE HAD.

MR. BUSH MADE A POINT OF APPEARING BEFORE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES WITH HIS EXPERTS ON SOVIET AND CHINESE AFFAIRS TO GIVE SCHOLARLY ANALYSES OF POLITICAL AND MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS IN BOTH COUNTRIES.

MR. BUSH WAS A FOUNDER OF THE ZAPATA PETROLEUM COMPANY AND SERVED TWO TERMS IN CONGRESS BEFORE PRESIDENT NIXON NAMED HIM U.S. AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN 1971.

HE TOOK OVER THE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE IN JANUARY 1973, AND WAS ASSIGNED TO HEAD THE U.S. LIAISON MISSION IN SUCCESSION TO AMBASSADOR DAVID BRUCE, IN SEPTEMBER 1974.

HE WAS AT ONE POINT CONSIDERED A LIKELY VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE TO STAND FOR ELECTION WITH MR. FORD IN 1976.

REUTER 1122

Approved For Release 2007/07/05 : CIA-RDP99-00498R000100020056-1